



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

# President's Newsletter

Number 64. October, 1994.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO THE SWEET LIFE.

And, by that, of course, we mean our 17th Convention coming up this coming May at Hershey, Pennsylvania. Everything you could ask for will be waiting for you. A famed resort destination replete with places to see and things to do. Sightseeing, with emphasis on American history; sports and recreation, with emphasis on golf, tennis, and swimming; shopping, with emphasis on name-brand outlet malls; festive occasions, with emphasis on wining and dining, dancing and entertainment; the sweet life, with emphasis on the Hershey Museum and Chocolate World. And on top of all this, scales, scales, scales. Scales on display, scales to buy, scales manufactured under your very eyes, scales wherever you turn.

We know you're ready to sign up now, but you'll have to wait until early January when the convention registration kits are mailed. Meanwhile, mark the dates -- May 4 to May 7, 1995, on your calendar, then earmark several more days before and/or after for leisure-time enjoyment of all that Hershey and its environs offer. Hershey Lodge is extending to our members a special rate of \$98 per night, single or double, for the pre- and post-convention dates of May 1,2,3,7,8 and 9, so take advantage and make your visit a real vacation. To give you an idea of all that awaits you, spend a few minutes with the Hershey Vacation Guide enclosed. And then watch your mailbox in January for the sign-up materials. This coming May is Kisses and Hugs time at Hershey!

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AN IMPORTANT UPDATE.

During the past year, we've been working to revamp our chapter structuring, brought on by the need for the European Chapter to conform to English tax laws in order to be eligible for non-profit organization tax exemptions. This resulted in the European Chapter separately incorporating and its membership electing chapter officers.

In order to be chapter-consistent and yet preserve the status and prerogatives of ISASC as the parent organization, the following course of action is being taken before the end of this year:

1. As specified in the by-laws, ISASC, as an international body, shall continue to be governed by seven directors, four from North America and three from Europe;
2. By an amendment to the by-laws, the North American and European Chapters shall be officially established;
3. By that same amendment, each chapter henceforth shall be responsible for administering its business affairs, electing its officers, and if necessary, incorporating in the country or state in which it is headquartered. (In effect, no longer will there be ISASC officers at the international level.)

SO NOW IT'S TIME TO VOTE.

With the European Chapter having already taken the action specified in Point 3 above, it remains for the North American Chapter membership to elect its chapter officers for the 1995-1997 term, as proposed by the nominating committee of Bob Stein and Jan Macho.

In addition, North American Chapter members (as well as European Chapter members) are to vote for ISASC's seven international directors, all of whom have been proposed by the aforementioned nominating committee.



Consequently, with this mailing are two ballots, one for ISASC directors for the 1995-1997 term, and one for North American Chapter officers for that same period. The end result of this action means that our Society will begin the new year with its international directors elected to a new term, along with a slate of officers newly elected by and for each chapter. IMPORTANT. The two ballots are quite different, even though they may look alike, so please fill out each one (no signature is necessary), and return both of them in the envelope provided. Thank you.

#### A CATECHISM BY ANY OTHER NAME...

asks questions and gives answers, and we're most pleased to give you, with ISASC's compliments, a copy of the "Scale Catechism" published many years ago by E. & T. Fairbanks and Company. This invaluable booklet contains 217 questions and answers covering the subject of scales in a broad and definitive way, and it should be a welcome addition to the metrology library of every collector, beginner or otherwise. Our thanks go to member Dale Goldman for lending us her rare original to reproduce. We did just that, printing 1,000 so that we also could offer it to the European Chapter for its members, as well as giving it to new members joining ISASC in the foreseeable future.

#### AND WHILE DALE IS ON OUR MIND...

we want to remind you that she's eagerly looking forward to securing long-out-of-print scale catalogs which we can reproduce and make available to our members. In order to learn which members own what and are willing to lend them to us, we're including with this Newsletter a memorandum from Dale asking for that information. If you have any scale catalogs that we can borrow, please fill out and return the memorandum to Dale and she'll be in touch with you.

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HOWE ABOUT THIS!

It seems that our members are always interested in new (old) catalogs. The most recent evidence of this is the fact that the 1896 Howe Scales Catalog, a real bargain (156 pages, \$20), was purchased by 60 plus members during our initial offer. Orders are still coming in, so if you haven't bought your copy yet, we can only suggest you do so now, before our supply is gone and Howe becomes history.

## AND NOW WE SEGUE TO RUTH WILLARD...

who tells us that because of the response to her request for articles on American scales, she's now talking to several wannabe authors about toy scales, Fairbanks and Howe scales, Tiffany scales, and counterfeit coin detectors. She's also looking for members ready and willing to write about egg scales or any other specialized category. The fruits of Ruth's labors should appear in EQM in the near future, but meantime, give her a call if you'd like to get involved in the literary side of our Society.

## SCHROEDER IS READY FOR OUR HELP.

We're referring, of course, to Schroeder's Antiques Price Guide-- published annually and acknowledged as a most popular reference book. Included among its many categories is "Scales," and under that heading are listed about 30, each with a descriptive phrase and estimated market value. However, a letter from Schroeder's that came our way earlier this year (we're one of their "advisors") stated that their listings might be in need of improvement, and we found this to be particularly true of those on scales. The letter went on to say that listings provided by us would be most welcome, and we feel we can do no less than take them up on their offer. So-- we'd like to ask for a volunteer to put together a list of scales (as many as 35) for



Schroeder's Guide that reflects variety and realistic market pricing. We have considerable background information from Schroeder's to make our volunteer's task relatively easy, and since the deadline isn't until early '95, our volunteer can proceed with the project at an easy pace. If you'd like to help the cause of scales and their marketing, call or write me and the material will be sent you forthrightly, along with the name of the Schroeder editor to contact.

#### MISHAPS THAT WE PRAY ARE RARITIES.

In the past few months, one member reported that her 1994 membership directory had "jumbled pages" (the title page being followed by page 35, followed in turn by state listings starting with Florida, etc.). Another member told us that her copy of the latest EQM-- #3, 1994-- was missing pages 1815, 1816, 1821 and 1822. When our state of shock subsided, we hastened to examine our reserve supply of each item, and found--to our immense relief--that in neither case did we come across other bad copies. However, just to be on the safe side, please check both your 1994 directory and your EQM #3, 1994, and if you find anything amiss, let us know and we'll promptly replace any flawed copies.

#### ABOUT SCALES AND US.

\*\* In a few weeks, Jan Macho, our friendly treasurer, will be sending you your 1995 dues billing, along with an update card enabling you to revise the description of your collection as it appears in the membership directory. Here's what we ask of you: PLEASE--pay your dues promptly and allow Jan to preserve his equilibrium. He is a true stalwart in ISASC's behalf, and surely deserves a fate better than chasing after delinquent members. And when you send him your check, include the updated information having to do with address/phone changes and the size/diversity of your collection. On behalf of Jan and the rest of us who toil in your behalf, thanks for your consideration.

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- \*\* If you're part of our Benefactor Program, or even if you're not (as yet), you'll be hearing from us later this Fall. As we hope you realize, this Program provides us with the funds we need to operate in a healthy fiscal way each and every year. Please keep that thought in mind when we come a callin'.
- \*\* For those who like round numbers, we're pleased as can be to report that we just hit a Chapter membership peak of 300. How far off can 400 be? The latest membership supplement is enclosed, just waiting to be added to your directory.
- \*\* If you're Europe-bound next Spring, by all means do not overlook the semi-annual convention of the European Chapter usually held in England over an April weekend. It's a first-rate conclave, and reports on its proceedings from stateside members who have attended in the past are always glowing. For more information, write Ron Wilkinson, 28 Foxhill Road, Burton Joyce, Nottingham NG14 5DB, England.
- \*\* The latest missive from Eileen and Ray Park, who live in Western Australia, surrounded by their collection of well over 2,000 scales, told us about the auction to end all auctions. It seems that earlier this year, in a suburb of Perth, Hall's Museum and all its contents went "under the hammer." By actual count, 9,049 lots were auctioned over a nine-day period, and bidders came from every continent where antiques are known and appreciated. Every kind of antique you could think of found its way to the auction floor, and according to the Parks, bidding was spirited, even though it was by lot number only, with no items being shown. Scales, of course, were in profusion, and Eileen and Ray bought one-third of all the scales and weights placed in auction, highlighted by a sterling postal scale, Birmingham 1911 (calibrated in tolas!), and an English postal scale (figured brass on a wood and tortoiseshell veneer base, embellished with four Wedgwood medallion inserts).



Ray and Eileen believe they got the "cream of the crop," and consider their foray one of the most exciting, albeit exhausting, experiences they've had in many a day. Which is not to diminish their never-ending quest for that which they claim their collection is lacking. As their letter concludes, "We want to buy egg scales, porcelain weights and scale books." If any members have such items to sell, please contact E.& R. Park, 93 Widgee Road, Noranda 6062, Western Australia; phone (09) 2756315.

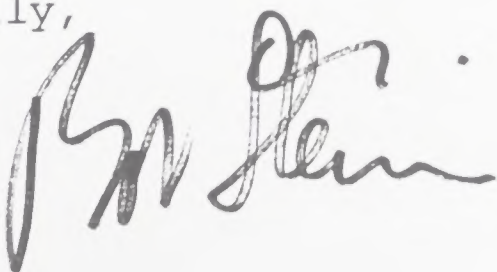
\*\* It seems that several of our esteemed members continue to dispense their knowledge of metrology on the international front. A while back, when the International Congress of Metrological History was held at Lille, France, the program included presentations by ISASC members Ruth Willard, Donald Gear, Hans Jennemann, and Yves Noel, each on a highly specialized (if not lofty) aspect of metrology. It was a blue-ribbon group, some of whose talks later appeared as abstracts in the quarterly bulletin of the Societe Metrique de France. Our congratulations to all those who carry our torch with such great honor.

\*\* A friend of ours who is not a scale collector told us he recently was in New Orleans where he saw an elegant oak and leather-upholstered jockey scale, complete with original weights, circa 1870-80, at Keil's Antiques, 325 Royal Street, for sale at \$11,000.. If you'd like a picture of it (one is all we have), write or call me.

AND AS WE APPROACH 1995...

Margie joins me in wishing all our friends, near and far, the best of everything for the new year. We very much appreciate your support, and hope that our paths will continue to cross on pleasurable matters.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ray and Eileen". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large initial "R" and "E".

